

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 OES-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

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R 121818Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8164

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, ETAD, BF

SUBJ: GCOB MAY SUBSIDIZE PURCHASING OF FISHING BOAT

1. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES ANNOUNCED FRIDAY THAT IT IS NEGOTIATING WITH CHRIS CRAFT TO PURCHASE A BOAT CALLED CROOKED ISLAND CAT BOAT DESIGNED FOR CRAWFISHING ON THE BAHAMAS BANKS (THE BOAT IS FIBERGLASS, 18FT. 9 INS. BY 9 FT. 4 INS., DRAWS ONLY 17 INCHES, CARRIES A CARGO OF UP TO 2400 LBS., HAS AN 11 H.P. INBOARD RENAULT RC.11D DIESEL ENGINE, AND AT 7 KNOTS USES ONLY ONE GALLON OF FUEL EVERY THREE HOURS).
 2. THE BOAT IS TO BE DEMONSTRATED THROUGHOUT THE FAMILY ISLANDS AND IF WELL RECEIVED BY BAHAMIAN FISHERMEN THE GCOB INTENDS TO PURCHASE THE BOAT IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY TO BENEFIT FROM A REDUCED PRICE. THE MINIMUM FOR A REDUCED PRICE IS 50 BOATS WHICH THE MINISTRY BELIEVES IT WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE FINDING PURCHASERS. ALTHOUGH SOME ESTIMATE THAT UP TO 200 BOATS WILL BE WANTED, NO ACCURATE ESTIMATE CAN BE MADE UNTIL THE REACTION OF LOCAL FISHERMEN TO THE BOAT IS ASCERTAINED.
 3. THE BOAT WILL COST DOLS 5500 AND WILL BE DUTY-FREE (DUTY ON BOATS IS 11 1/2 PERCENT). COST OF FISHING GEAR WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED IN ANY CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS OFFERED TO THE FISHERMEN.
 4. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE BOAT WAS DESIGNED BY A CHRIS CRAFT EXECUTIVE WHO OWNS PROPERTY IN THE BAHAMAS AND HAS SPENT A
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GOOD DEAL OF TIME HERE. HE ACTUALLY DID DESIGN THE BOAT

SPECIFICALLY FOR THE SHALLOW BANKS OF THE BAHAMAS BUT HE HAS
RECEIVED INTERESTED INQUIRIES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL.
CHRIS CRAFT IS ALSO DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF MANUFACTURING
THE BOAT IN THE BAHAMAS.
WEISS

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